IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: FRAISSE, Thomas; DUTHEIL, Pierre

SERIAL NO.:    (International Serial No.PCT/EP2004/052571 )

FILED:        Herewith (International Filing Date: 18 October 2004)

TITLE:  ONLINE-CONTENT-FILTERING METHOD AND DEVICE

REMARKS ON PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In conjunction with the filing of the present application, and prior to an initial Official Action

on this matter, please amend the above-identified application as provided in the attached Marked Up

Copy and Substitute Specification.

Please note that the following amendments in the Substitute Specification apply to the

attached specification and claims labeled for "U.S. filing". This combined application incorporates

the original application and any amendments or annex to the International Application in the proper

order, including the correct original and substitute pages, claims and drawing sheets.

In this preliminary amendment, please consider the following remarks in conjunction with

the amendments to the above-identified application as follows:

<u>REMARKS</u>

The present Preliminary Amendment has been entered for the purpose of placing the

application into a more proper U.S. format. In particular, certain grammatical and idiomatic

inconsistencies have been corrected by amendment to the specification, and the application is

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corrected for certain typographical errors found in the originally submitted application. No new matter has been added by these amendments. The present application incorporates the original filing including any amendments made in the international filing. There was no amendment in the International Application, and there is no annex to the International Preliminary Examination Report because the IPER. The specification is an English translation of an originally French language document.
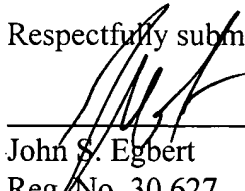
The Claims have been amended so as to conform with U.S. requirements and so as to remove multiple dependent claims. The Abstract has been amended so as to conform to U.S. filing requirements.

Applicant respectfully requests that the present Amendment be entered prior to an initial Official Action on the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

4-18·06
_____
Date

_____
John S. Egbert
Reg. No. 30,627
Andrew W. Chu
Reg. No. 46,625

Customer No. 24106

Egbert Law Offices
412 Main Street, 7th Floor
Houston, Texas 77002
(713)224-8080
(713)223-4873 fax

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## CLAIMS

I claim:

1. (Currently amended) Filtering process for online content, ~~characterized by the fact that it consists of~~ said filtering process comprising the steps of:

implementing an equipment ~~(110)~~, external box or internal computer card, ~~which is inserts itself~~ inserted between ~~the~~ a computer ~~(100)~~ and a computer network ~~(130)~~ providing access to online content, said equipment receiving ~~the~~ content from the internet;

~~a step of analysis (316, 318, 326) of~~ analyzing said online content;

~~a step of research of~~ researching environment ~~(316, 318, 326)~~ of said online content on said internet;

~~step of analysis (316, 318, 326) of~~ analyzing said environment;

~~a step of decision~~ deciding to filter ~~(320, 328)~~ depending on a set of rules for decision-making depending on ~~the~~ results of the ~~analysis~~ steps of analyzing said online content and ~~its~~ researching environment; and

~~a step of transmission (324)~~ transmitting or not of said online content to said computer, depending on ~~the~~ a result of the step of ~~decision~~ deciding to filter.

2. (Currently amended) Process as per claim 1, ~~characterized by the facts that~~ wherein, during the ~~analysis~~ step of analyzing said environment ~~(316, 318, 326), the,~~ pages reached through ~~the~~ hypertext links of said online content are processed.

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3. (Currently amended) Process as per ~~either claim 1 or 2, characterized by the fact that at least one~~ Claim 1, wherein the step of ~~analysis (316, 318, 326) of~~ analyzing said online content ~~includes~~ comprises:

a first step of rapid content screening ~~(316, 318)~~, ~~the~~ with a step of deciding ~~decision phase including~~ being comprised of a first step of ~~determination of~~ determining a decision ~~(320)~~ depending on ~~the~~ a result of said first rapid content screening step, ~~and~~ in case of non-determination of the result of said first step of ~~determination of decision-making~~ determining a decision;~~, the step of analysis includes~~ and

a second step of screening content ~~(326)~~ of greater length than ~~the~~ a first rapid screening step, with the step of decision then ~~including~~ comprising a second step of ~~determination~~ determinating ~~of~~ a decision ~~(328)~~ depending on ~~the~~ a result of the second screening step.

4. (Currently amended) Process as per claim 3, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the first step of rapid content screening ~~(316, 318)~~ processes a content containing no images and ~~that~~ wherein the second step of ~~content~~ screening content ~~(326) includes a step~~ is comprised of image processing.

5. (Currently amended) Process as per ~~any of claims 1 to 4, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 1, wherein at least one step of ~~analysis (326) includes~~ analyzing comprises:

a step of image processing during which, for at least one image, ~~the~~ texture of ~~the~~ image content is analyzed in order to extract the parts of the image where texture matches that of human flesh.

6. (Currently amended) Process as per claim 5, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the image processing step ~~includes~~ is comprised of a step of ~~analysis of the~~ analyzing a person or persons whose bodies are partly exposed.

7. (Currently amended) Process as per ~~any of claims 1 to 6, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 1, wherein at least one step of ~~analysis (326) includes~~ analyzing is comprised of a step of ~~extraction of~~ extracting characters from images incorporated in the online content.

8. (Currently amended) Process as per ~~any of claims 1 to 7, characterized by the fact that it includes~~ Claim 1, further comprising:

a step of identifying a user ~~identification (308, 310)~~, and

a step of ~~deactivation (312) of~~ deactivating filtering and authorization for access to all content accessible on the computer network depending on the result of ~~said~~ identification.

9. (Currently amended) Process as per ~~any of claims 1 to 8, characterized by the fact that it includes~~ Claim 1, further comprising:

a step of transmission ~~(310)~~ to a remote computer system ~~(140)~~ linked to said computer network ~~(130)~~, of a set of information ~~including~~ being comprised of a command, a user identifier and an equipment identifier; and

a step of verification by the remote computer system of the rights associated with said identifiers and a step of command to the equipment ~~(310, 312)~~ from ~~the~~ a remote computer system to deactivate ~~the~~ filtering and to authorize access to all content accessible on the computer network.

10. (Currently amended) Process as per ~~either of claims 8 or 9, characterized by the fact that it includes~~ Claim 8, wherein, when the equipment ~~(110)~~ is deactivated, a step of activation ~~(300)~~ of

the equipment at the next startup of the computer or at the next opening of a session with said computer.

11. (Currently amended) Equipment ~~(110)~~, external box or a card inside ~~the~~ a computer ~~(100)~~ for filtering online content, which inserts ~~itself~~ between the computer and a computer network ~~(130)~~, giving access to online content, said equipment receiving the content coming from the network, ~~characterized by the fact that it includes~~ the equipment comprising:

a means for analyzing ~~(112, 113)~~ said content;

a means for researching ~~(112, 113)~~ of ~~the~~ environment of said content on said network;

a means for analyzing ~~(112, 113)~~ said environment;

a means for ~~decision~~ deciding to filter ~~(112, 113)~~ depending on a set of rules for decision-making, depending on ~~the~~ results of ~~the steps of~~ analysis of said online content and ~~its~~ said environment; and

a means for transmitting ~~(114)~~ or not said online content to said computer, depending on ~~the~~ a result of the step of ~~decision~~ deciding to filter.

12. (Currently amended) Equipment as per claim 11, ~~characterized by the fact that the~~ wherein said means for analyzing ~~(112, 113)~~ of said environment processes ~~the~~ pages that are reached through ~~the~~ hypertext links of said online content.

13. (Currently amended) Equipment as per ~~either claim 11 or 12, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 11, wherein at least one means for analyzing said content ~~(112, 113)~~ has been adapted to perform a first rapid content screening, the means for decision being adapted to perform a first

determination of decision depending on the result of said first rapid screening and, in case of non-determination of the result of said first step of determination of a decision, the means for analyzing has been adapted to perform a second content screening of longer duration that the first rapid screening, the means of decision-making then performing a second determination of decision depending on the result of the second screening.

14. (Currently amended) Equipment as per claim 13, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein said first rapid content screening processes a content that does not contain any images and that the second content screening does include image processing.

15. (Currently amended) Equipment as per ~~any of claims 11 to 14, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 11, wherein at least one means for analyzing ~~(112, 113) includes~~ comprises a means for image processing that has been adapted, for at least one image, to analyze the texture of the content of the image in order to extract those portions of the image where the texture matches that of human flesh.

16. (Currently amended) Equipment as per claim 15, ~~characterized by the fact that the~~ wherein said image processing includes an analysis of ~~the~~ posture of ~~the~~ a person or persons whose parts of ~~their~~ bodies thereof are visible.

17. (Currently amended) Equipment as per ~~any of claims 11 to 16, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 11, wherein at least on means for analyzing ~~(112, 113)~~ has been adapted for extracting characters from images incorporated into the online content.

18. (Currently amended) Equipment as per ~~any of claims 11 to 17, characterized by the fact that it includes~~ Claim 11, wherein a means for identification of the user by hardware key ~~(116)~~, the

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means for decision-making ~~(112, 113)~~ <u>as</u> being adapted, depending on the result of the identification, to deactivate the filtering and to authorize access to all content accessible on the computer network.

19. (Currently amended) Equipment as per ~~any of claims 11 to 18, characterized by the fact that it includes a~~ <u>Claim 1, wherein said</u> means for transmitting ~~(115)~~ to a remote computer system ~~(140)~~ connected to said computer network ~~(130)~~, a set of information including a command, a user identifier and an equipment identifier and a means for receiving, from the remote computer system, a command to the equipment to deactivate the filtering and to grant access to all content accessible on the computer network.

20. (Currently amended) Equipment ~~(110)~~ as per either of claims ~~18 or 19, characterized by the fact that it includes~~ <u>Claim 18, comprising</u> a means of activation B that is capable, when ~~the~~ equipment has been deactivated, to activate the equipment at the next startup of the computer or at the next opening of a session with said computer.

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## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention relates to an online-content-filtering method and device. ~~The invention comprises~~, including the use of a device, a case external to or a card internal to the computer, which is disposed between the computer and a computer network providing access to the online content. ~~According to the invention, the aforementioned~~ The device receives the content from the network. The ~~inventive~~ method ~~comprises~~ includes ~~the following steps~~: a content analysis step ~~(316, 318, 326)~~; a step consisting ~~in~~ of searching the environment ~~(316, 318, 326) of said~~ of the content via the network; an environment analysis step ~~(316, 318, 326)~~; a filtering decision step ~~(320, 328)~~ which is performed as a function of a set of decision rules that is dependent on the results of the content and environment analysis steps; and a transmission step ~~(324)~~ in which the content may or may not be transmitted to the computer depending on the result of the filtering decision step. Preferably, the pages to which the hypertext links of the content are directed are processed during the environment analysis step.